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SHOOTING

*a magazine
for shooters
by shooters*



PRECISION SHOOTING

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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

PRECISION SHOOTING is printed by offset. Display copy is to be furnished by the advertiser. Advertising plates will be made from negatives, good black and white glossy prints or clear copy. Displays will be made to Advertiser's specifications. All normal composition will be set according to our own standards. Rate cards will be mailed to Advertisers on request.

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Back Issue Notice

Due to the change in the editorial offices of Precision Shooting Magazine the sale of back issues has been suspended, effective November 1, 1980.

As soon as new editorial offices have been established you will be notified that back issues are again available. Packing and moving demand that the sale be interrupted temporarily. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

Binder Sale Notice

Due to the change in the editorial offices of Precision Shooting Magazine the sale of binders has been suspended effective November 1, 1980.

As soon as new editorial offices have been established you will be notified that binders are again available. Packing and moving demand that the sale be interrupted temporarily. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the close of this year we also close out a chapter in the history of "Precision Shooting" magazine. I am referring to the resignation of our current editor, Ritchie Moorhead, which became effective on November 23, 1980. This issue is the last one that Ritchie is responsible for. I feel it is appropriate to express my feelings, which are also those of many of our members.

Ritchie came to our sport from big bore and 1000 yard benchrest competition. He succeeded Emory Tooty, the previous editor, in March of 1973 and took on the task with enthusiasm and determination. Ritchie was always present at the matches and made this presence known by the excellence of his shooting as well as the fine match reports he provided us with over the years.

I will personally miss Ritchie's tireless efforts and guidance which were ever present and available for the asking. When I needed a favor or a bit of extra effort with an association matter Ritchie was always willing to do whatever he could. I firmly believe that Ritchie Moorhead had only the betterment of Benchrest, and the broadening of its horizons, in mind as he performed the various tasks of an editor. I know I speak for most all our members when I wish Ritchie all possible success with his future; and a sincere thank you for helping to make "Benchresting" the grand sport that it is.

With warmest regards,
Bob White

IBS Nominating Committee Report

The IBS nominating committee presents the following nominees for the available offices in IBS.

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105 Odessa Ave.
Wilmington, DE 19809

A ballot for your use is inserted in this issue. Please return it to Mrs. Evelyn Richards, IBS Recording Secretary before December 30, 1980 so that it can be counted.

Remember to **place postage on the ballot** PLEASE.

Thank you,
The IBS Nominating Committee

COVER STORY

Presenting the readers of Precision Shooting with a new face on each cover has been one of the high points of my years as editor. This month is my last one and it gives me great pleasure to present Mr. Hank Gonnella, one of the backbones of benchrest shooting and certainly the sparkplug of the Camillus club.

I got to know Hank back a few years ago when he started to run the winter shoots at Camillus. From the start these small shoots were first rate events and the shooters were made welcome each time they arrived, no matter how many times they had been there before. There was a warm personal approach that others could do well to emulate on occasion. It never varied.

Hank broke his back some time ago and things did not look so good for him. He still tried his best to run the shoots and make benchrest work for Camillus. Slowly the back mended and the reputation of Camillus expanded. Hank stubbornly expanded the facilities and drew in more shooters. Several years ago Camillus went to registered shoots and the crowds enjoyed every one of them. Again Hank was the doer who made it all work, along with a fine bunch of relatives and friends.

Finally Hank was ready for the big one, the IBS Varmint and Sporter Cham-

pionships. It was a gamble yet he took it and did one terrific job of making things run as smoothly as could ever be expected. From the Circus tent for reloading to the unique prizes of Camillus knives Hank and his crew left no stone unturned to provide excellent service to the shooters.

The shooters left him down a little and the attendance was not its best. Whether the shooters disliked the 5 day schedule or found some other excuse for not attending matters little here. The main point is that there was an outstanding event waiting for them and they chose to ignore it. The loss will be theirs forever as I doubt if there will be an event to match it in the near future of IBS.

It all revolves around Mr. Hank Gonnella. He is a man dedicated to benchrest shooting and determined to do the best that he possibly can to advance and promote that cause. At this time in history he has succeeded far beyond his fondest dreams. We should all take our hats off to Hank for his efforts on our behalf. Without the efforts of people of this caliber the sport of benchrest would die a sudden death.

It has been my personal pleasure to know Hank and to enjoy his efforts. I count myself lucky to have known him. Thank you Hank, for everything!

R. R. Moorhead



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BENCHREST SHOOTERS

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IBS Memo

IBS Targets — Charter and Life Members

100 or 200 yard benchrest targets are \$20.99 per 500. 300 yard benchrest targets are \$22.08 per 500. 100 yard hunter targets are \$13.48 per 250. 200 yard hunter targets are \$15.39 per 250.

All target orders, as usual, are figured with a 10% discount for affiliated clubs, plus handling and shipping charges.

Mail order to: Evelyn Richards, 411 N. Wilbur Ave., Sayre, Pa. 18840.

The annual membership fee is \$15.00 — Life membership in IBS has been set at \$125. Apply to the recording secretary for enrollment. IBS Affiliated Club Membership \$15.00

New rule books now available, with minor changes — plus IBS By-Laws at \$1.00 per copy.

IBS Charter Membership Patches and regular patches are available at \$2.00 each.

When ordering **Charter Membership patches**, please indicate your 1970 Card Number.

PRODUCT REPORT

Kimber Model 82 Rifle, Caliber 221r

by R.R. Moorhead

In this life of ours there are some things that just have to be. Whether we believe that fate made it happen or if it is simply chance we still are aware that the event or item is definitely one of the great ones. So it is with the Kimber 22 rimfire rifle marketed early this year by Kimber of Oregon.

My first awareness of this fine rifle came in a report written by another gun scribe who was fortunate enough to see one at the 1980 SHOT show. Glowing praise fell from the article which revealed an excellent rifle with fine accuracy, the likes of which we have not seen for some time. Being a follower of accurate and interesting (only the former are the latter according to the late Townsend Whelen, and I agree) rifles I had to know more.

My first exposure to the Kimber took place at the NRA show in Kansas City in April of this year. Behold-there it was on a rack for all to see and touch. Unfortunately it was chained at night and I could not take it home with me. I placed an order for one as soon as I got home.

While I was waiting for the rifle to arrive I read everything that was printed about the Kimber. Classic lines, fine ac-

curacy with a variety of loadings, quality workmanship, excellent handling characteristics and many more were the virtues of this rifle that was on its way to my door.

Many of those who had tested this rifle before me had revealed that it was the equal to the Winchester Model 52 Sporter, both in workmanship and accuracy. That is indeed a compliment and something to live up to. I have been fortunate enough to have shot 3 Model 52 Sporters by the age of 40 and they were great rifles. Anything that approached that level would be a good rifle by any yardstick.

I have been able to shoot a few Remington 40X Sporters as well and I found them to be excellent rifles although not as much in demand, or as high priced, as the Model 52 Sporter. A fine rifle nevertheless, and I could only hope that the Kimber would be the equal of either in the accuracy department.

Since this was not going to be a collectors gun it need not be a Model 52. The price is not the same either which makes the Kimber easier to obtain for most of us. For a working gun that has nice lines I do not need something that should really not be scratched in the woods. I was hoping that the Kimber would fill the bill in both the looks and function departments.

With a really long delay between my order and the delivery of the rifle, through no fault of anyone, my anticipation grew. It finally arrived. Tear the box open but don't hurt that rifle. What a beauty! It feels just like they said it would! I hope it shoots as good as it looks.

A quick examination pointed out that the rifle was like those I had seen in April. No major changes had been made. The rifle was full sized and carried a 4X scope by Leupold. This scope is parallax free at 75 yards which is in keeping with the intended use of the rimfire rifle. A nice thought to top off a fine rifle.

My rifle weighed a bit over 7 pounds with the scope and mounts. Open sights are available as an option and the rifle comes plain barreled with a grooved receiver as well. It is your choice. The 4 shot magazine fits flush with the bottom of the stock for a crisp neat appearance.



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Appearance features include a checkered steel buttplate, all steel trigger guard and good wood in the classic pattern. It is a nice rifle without being plain Jane or too fancy either.

From the box my rifle acted like it had grit in the action. A cleaning and some use smoothed this out quickly and it is now a smooth action with improvement each time I use it.

The trigger is smooth and breaks like an ice rod in January. The safety is the neatest arrangement I have ever seen. A grooved finger rest is placed on the once cylindrical safety latch which is eccentrically mounted. Push it forward to fire and backward for safety. Smooth and lovely as a safety should be. It is grand.

The bolt is right where it should be and repeat shots from the shoulder are easy and rather smoothly executed. Feeding of the ammunition from the magazine is positive and requires little effort. Everything here works properly.

Shooting this rifle soon revealed that it was as functional as it was attractive. I did not have time to get really serious with it on paper at 50 yards but the 6 or 7 different brands of ammunition that I put through it one afternoon all performed about equally well. I suspect that a good day and some target ammo will find this rifle staying below the 1 inch mark at 50 yards. My rather informal testing on a windy day found a grouping ability of about 1 to 1-1/4 inches at 50 yards. That is good no matter how you measure it.

In the final analysis a decision must be made. Is it the equal to the Model 52 Sporter? Does it shoot like the 40X Sporter? Is there a finer 22 rimfire rifle on the market today? Being one to take each item on its own merit I am reluctant to make direct comparisons to anything that has gone by. The Kimber and the Winchester are about as much alike in my book as a 1957 Corvette is like the 1957 Thunderbird. Both were fine cars but they were intended to be different. So it is with the Kimber. It can run with the Winchester, the Remington or the Anschütz yet it is none of them. It is the Kimber and the Kimber it should always remain. In my opinion it stands alone on its merit. Perhaps some day down the line there will be collectors of the Kimber Model 82 just like there are collectors of the ----- today. It is a gem in its own right and the market appears to be ready and waiting for it.

For information and prices contact your local dealer or Kimber of Oregon, 9039 S. E. Jannsen Rd., Clackamas, OR 97015.

PRODUCT REPORT

Pocono Gun Shop Model 70 Type Safety For the Remington

by R.R. Moorhead

Several months ago I received a phone call from John Cays, the owner of the Pocono Gun Shop. John was inquiring as to whether I might be interested in seeing his modification of the Remington bolt to allow for complete bedding of the action of a Hunter class rifle while meeting the safety rule of IBS. Of course I would be interested.

A few days later the bolt with the safety on it arrived by UPS. John had shipped his own bolt for me to look at. True to form the gunsmith's rig is not blued just like the shoemaker's kids have bare feet. John apologized for this and requested that I overlook the fact that he is very busy making nice ones for his customers. Fair enough John.

The safety sent to me functioned nicely. It even fit into my rifle, which is unusual for a custom fitted benchrest bolt. I could notice that it was not the right one but it did fit well enough for the testing.

This safety is made with a Model 70 safety lever which is fitted to the Remington bolt. A bit of welding is required to build up some of the area for the modification but the finished product is neat and attractive. All the parts can be blued, as they usually are, or they can be left polished as the sample I received. The choice is yours.

The operation of this safety is like that of the Model 70. Forward allows the rifle to be fired and moving the lever to the rear blocks the striker from falling and makes the rifle "safe". Do not trust any safety completely as anything mechanical can fail. Exercise caution at all times!

The sample sent to us was very satisfactory and fills the need for the Hunter Class shooter. A varmint shooter with a solid action and Remington bolt might appreciate a safety on his hunting rifle. This safety is for him. It is a common type of safety that blocks the striker fall rather than the trigger. It is also a common motion. Who does not know how the Model 70 safety works?

For further information on this safety see the ad for the Pocono Gun Shop in this issue. John Cays will be happy to discuss it with you.

When you only get one chance



You've knelt in your blind for what seems like forever. From far away you hear the haunting call of Canadas winging their way across the sky.

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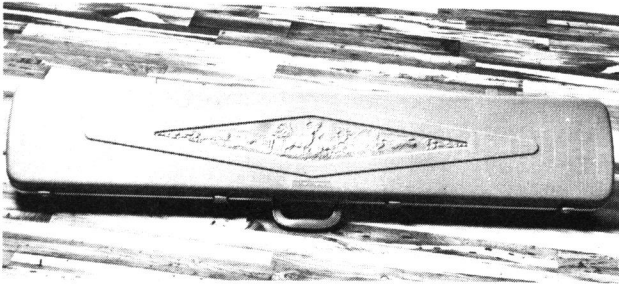
HODGDON POWDER CO.

SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66202

PRODUCT REPORT

Gun Guard Firearm Cases

by R.R. Moorhead



A primary concern of the modern shooter is the safe transportation of expensive firearms. The hunter wants his sheep rifle to arrive unharmed. The target shooter wants his zero to remain unchanged while travelling. The benchrest shooter wants his fiberglass stock to remain unscratched and his critical bedding to remain calm.

Every extreme is explored in the search for secure shipping cases. Boxes are made, racks are built and padded. All sorts of unique rigs appear for moving rifles from point A to point B.

The most common case is the thermoformed plastic one made by a variety

of manufacturers. It does a fair job and will protect a rifle providing the journey is not too rough. Most are OK but not really a big deal. There is one exception to this, however.

Gun Guard cases present the sportsman with an alternative. Instead of being thermoformed these cases are injection molded with about 1/3 more plastic in the outside shell. This is a real bonus when dent and jar are the common ingredients of a trip. My thermo cases measure about .082 while my Gun Guard is .125. The polypropylene material resists cracks and dents better than most of the common materials used.

The case has built in legs that cannot break off. With the legs as part of the case mold it offers a secure set of bases for standing that case near the car or on a dock at the airport. Not falling over at random is a good feature.

The cases offer 4 locks instead of the usual 3. This makes for a secure lock-up plus more rigidity and therefore more safety. A continuous hinge replaces the short hinges of the common case. Another bonus which adds to the stiffness of the Gun Guard case is the deeply molded gutter that mates to hold the case closed and partially sealed from the elements. Put them all together and you have an extremely solid and functional case.

The cases come in a very attractive shade of brown with a textured surface. A Wildlife Edition is offered. This features unique scenes molded in the diamond shaped center of each panel. It is a rather nice addition to an already attractive case.

Each case comes with a set of keys for the 2 locks and a desiccant to draw out some of the moisture of humid days. Both are important features.

The Gun Guard cases are offered in many sizes for single or double rifle use. Shotguns will fit the rifle cases but shotgun cases are available. Handgun cases are offered with a rather nice 4 gun model being the outstanding item. All cases are shipped in a heavy cardboard box for preservation of the beauty of the cases.

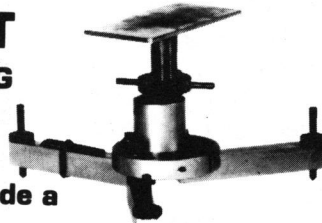
The prices of the Gun Guard are competitive with lesser quality cases and offer real bargains in this inflation encased time we live in. They are a safe way to protect the investment in fine firearms.

For further information on these cases talk to your local sporting goods dealer or contact Daskocil Manufacturing Company, Inc., P. O. Box 1246, Arlington, TX 76010 for information and catalogs.

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Benchrest Headlines — 25 Years Ago

by A. H. Angerman



- All three of Mike Walker's Heavy bench records went kaput. Ralph Pride beat his 5-10-100 agg. at the big Johnstown shoot in September, 1955 with a .3430. L. E. (Sam) Wilson took away Mike's 5-10-200 with a .4801 MOA at Buffalo, Wyo. on July 16, 1955. And finally, Barney Austin from Tulsa, Okla. took over Mike's 5-10 (100+200) Grand Agg. with a .4512 MOA during a night shoot on August 20, 1955. This latter feat allowed Barney to collect the Sierra \$250 cash award.
- Sam Wilson's nice new 200 yard record agg. didn't hold up very long because old Barney sneaked up on him and smashed it with a hot .4624 MOA. And then Sam Clark punched out a .4091 grand agg. at Johnstown which put Barney out in left field wondering what happened.
- Still more. On September 17, 1955, George Herman from Omaha, Neb. fired a couple of slack grabbers and knocked off Barney's 200 yard ten shot agg. with a cool .4100 MOA.
- And more; a ten shot 100 yard group fired by Clyde Hart at Johnstown was officially measured at .213". This performance deposed L. E. Wilson's earlier world record of .232". With this avalanche of record targets coming in, it's no wonder Mr. Brandt quit measuring.

- World heavy gun records at the end of 1955 were:

5-10	.106"
10-100	.213"
5-200	.303"
10-200	.528"
5-300M	.674"
10-300	1.740"
5-5-200	.3124 MOA
5-10-100	.3430 MOA
5-10-200	.4100 MOA
5-10(100+200)	.4091 MOA

Paul Dinant
Clyde Hart
Clair Taylor
Sam Clark
Sam Clark
Clair Taylor
W.M. Brown
Ralph Pride
George Herman
Sam Clark

- Performance data continued to pour in from the National shoot at Johnstown (175 heavy gun shooters). Phil Teachout, who was some sort of a statistician, was trying to pull it all together, analyzing and comparing it with results from other big shoots. While Phil called the shooting at Johnstown "superlative", you may choose whatever adjectives you wish when reminded that the grand agg was won with a .4098 MOA and the twentieth spot was nabbed with a .6065 MOA!
- The Kollmorgen Optical Company came out with a bore scope. It was 30" long, and carried its own lamp and magnifying lens system. It allowed many shooters to examine every inch of their barrels, and no doubt they saw things they wished were not there. Made by Carl Zeiss, it sold for close to \$200.

- "Shooter's News", the Chronical of North American Shooting closed its doors forever. Starting in December, 1947 as a mimeographed sheet, it floundered through half of 1948, went bankrupt, then resumed publication in printed form in August, 1948. December, 1955 marked its last issue. Accordingly there was no record of bench rest activities for four months until a transfusion of currency got the first issue of "Precision Shooting" off the ground. With historical documentation no longer available it seems an appropriate time to close the doors on this "25 Years Ago" column. It was fun writing it and I trust worth your time reading it. Good shooting.

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R.G. Sherer T. Bolinger G. Johnson

Technical Column

M.H. Walker
Technical Editor
R.D. 1, Warren Road
Mohawk, N.Y. 13407



I want to get started in benchrest shooting next spring and was wondering which class to start in. The schedule around here has about seven Heavy Varmint and Unlimited matches and very few Sporter or Light Varmint.

To start with, I would like to shoot in just one class. I have several year's experience with accurate varmint rifles and have been shooting and loading with good benchrest techniques.

I was wondering if you could recommend which class, Heavy Varmint or Unlimited, to start in. What kind of action, barrel, stock, trigger, and scope would you recommend to build the rifle? Which cartridge should I use?

Also, in the June 1979 issue of **Precision Shooting**, you stated, "There are some who believe they get better wind bucking with the higher velocity. This would certainly be true if the stability factors were not upset with the higher velocity." My question is: Should I stay away from the PPC or RBR cartridges and go with 6x47 or 222?

I have enjoyed your technical column and feel you're the best to answer these questions.

* * * * *

The Heavy Varmint Class is, by far, the most popular bench rest class. However, there are several top shooters using their Sporter rifle for all varmint classes. They feel they are not handicapped since they are able to shoot better using only one rifle instead of several.

I would suggest that you pick a gunsmith with a good benchrest reputation and take his recommendations all the way.

If money is no object and you can afford to buy your cases made by someone else, the PPC or BR cartridges are O.K. If you feel you want to do your own case forming, and have plenty of time to spare, they are still O.K. If you feel this is an expense or a work chore you could do without, then go with the .222 and or the 6x47. A custom action will cost extra

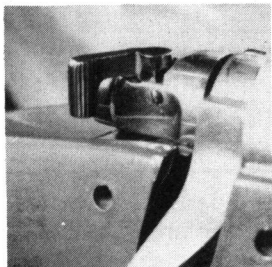
over the various Remington actions. The repeating Remingtons such as 722, 700, 600 should be sleeved for the best results. A fiberglass stock is recommended with the action epoxied in place permanently.

The Remington triggers are O.K. if your gunsmith knows how to fine tune them. Canjars are more expensive and still need some know how.

I personally prefer the high power internally adjusted scopes such as the Lyman LWBR in at least 25x or the comparable Leopold. If you are going to use a normal weight barrel you will be required to use a short internally adjusted scope with the rifle construction recommended.

Go back over your recent Precision Shooting Magazines. Check the equipment the winners are using. This information should influence your decision as to where to go for your rifle and what caliber to choose.

M.H.W.



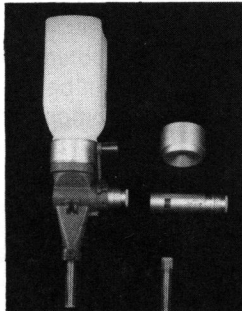
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CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF 300 METER BENCH REST RECORDS

by A. H. Angerman

Friend Hornbeck's comments in the June, 1980 issue of P.S. prodded me into a laborious search through Shooters News and Precision Shooting magazines dating from 1950 through 1970 for a detailed rundown on the history of metric bench rest records. Please note that there never were any historical 100 or 200 meter records. Courses of fire were registered at 100 yards, 200 yards and 300 meters, and for some unexplainable reason aggregates were argued, fought and died for over an odd-ball combination of 200 yard and 300 meter shooting. I did not research the oddballs.

The DuBois, Pa. club sponsored all of the 300 meter shooting from 1950 through 1960, when it abruptly closed its benches forever. In 1963 the Chippewa

Rifle Club in Easton, Ohio took up the 300 meter slack, and in about 1968 the Seattle, Wash. club added a few records to the board.

Since its formation in 1970, IBS has never registered a record breaking 300 meter match, ie. all records currently on the IBS board were produced at DuBois, Easton or Seattle prior to January 1, 1970.

The following tables outline the chronological order in which 300 meter records were fired, and in the case of the heavy gun, the records include those fired from mechanical and sand bag rests. Current IBS records are noted with asterisks. Please bear in mind again that there never were any 100 or 200 meter records in either IBS or NBRSA.

HEAVY BENCH RIFLE

Date	Record Holder	Range	5-300M	10-300M	5-5-300M	5-10-300M
5/29/50	Sam Clark	DuBois	.674"			
5/29/50	Alex Hoyer	DuBois		1.909"		
5/30/51	Clair Taylor	DuBois		1.740"		
8/20/57	Omar Rinehart	DuBois		.918"(*)		
7/20/63	Ernie Scafuri	Easton			.6573	
7/20/63	Gene Beecher	Easton			.6295	
7/20/63	P. Gottschall	Easton			.5949	
7/21/63	B. Borozewski	Easton				.8600
7/21/63	George Clark	Easton				.8489
7/21/63	George Kelbly	Easton				.8302
7/21/63	Clyde Yockey	Easton	.665"			
5/10/64	Bob Hart	Easton	.638"			.6840
5/10/64	Cowboy Rucker	Easton			.4202	
5/10/64	Dempsey Frost	Easton			.4161	
5/9/65	P. Gottschall	Easton	.605" (*)		.3770	.5352
5/9/65	Clyde Yockey	Easton				.5571
5/14/66	Tom Demoise	Easton			.3547 (*)	
5/7/67	Clyde Yockey	Easton	.616"			
6/1/69	Al Angerman	Easton				.5105 (*)

HEAVY VARMINT

Date	Record Holder	Range	5-300M	5-5-300M
5/10/65	Parker Rollins	Easton	1.060"	
5/10/65	Richard Hall	Easton		.5260
5/7/67	Doc Mick	Easton		.4640 (*)
5/7/67	Jim Stekl	Easton	.863"	
10/6/68	Marlin Bassett	Easton	.787" (*)	

LIGHT VARMINT

Date	Record Holder	Range	5-300M	5-5-300M
5/30/69	Bill Dunn	Easton	.997"	
5/30/69	Dave Hall	Easton	.887" (*)	
6/22/68	Tom Seitz	Seattle		.5527 (*)

SPORTER

Date	Record Holder	Range	5-300M	5-5-300M
5/4/69	Ed Frombach	Seattle	1.016"	.6860
5/30/69	Dave Kiel	Easton	.817" (*)	
5/30/69	Bill Dunn	Easton		.4898 (*)

(Continued on Page 11)

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by David D. Brennan

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If we are to continue our discussion of the last eight year's developments, at the risk of being repetitious, to say nothing of belaboring the obvious, the most outstanding development in bench rest shooting appears to be the creation of the 6mm PPC, and the advancement of competitive match grade 6mm bullets to compliment that cartridge. A 65 grain 6mm bullet is influenced far less by wind than is a 52 grain .22 caliber, to a degree that is surprisingly more than one would expect. Accordingly it is more forgiving of human error in our rather rapid little series of mental gymnastics and calculations that we go through between shots at a formal match. That much having been entered into the record, we will now sit around for a while, twiddle our thumbs, and wait for one of our sharper brethren to mumble to no one in particular, "I suppose a heavier bullet, in a larger caliber, if built to similar exacting standards, would probably shoot better still, if shot from an efficient cartridge design". At that uttered sentence, in the background a 500 person orchestra suddenly bursts into "Symphony for the New World", joined by the entire Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Aurora Borealis lights up the entire sky, an elderly gentlemen named Diogenes, who was wandering by with a lantern in his eternal quest for an honest man, puts down the lantern, sits down, takes off his sandals, and says, "At last I can rest, boy, do my feet hurt"; King Arthur dissolves the Round Table, since the Grail has just been found, Lancelot departs for other quests, pausing only long enough to pack a few things (including the Queen).

The gentlemen with the one liner comment, before all the background commotion, pinpointed our greatest need, and our greatest challenge. If you sit down with a pile of back issues of PS, and read

Mike Walker's question and answer articles over the past several years, you have to note the high number of times that shooters, both new and moderately experienced, inquire what bullet should they plan on using if they want to bench rest, a 6.5mm, or 7mm, or .30 caliber. Mike's answers, backed by a tremendous number of years of searching for accuracy, are always to the effect that bullets of bench rest quality do not exist in 6.5mm or 7mm, and in .30 caliber; you have no alternative but the 168 grain hollow point, boat tail match bullet.

These questions continue even after the development of the 6mm PPC. Now, with such a great cartridge in existence, what sort of a fellow is inquiring about these larger bores anyway; doesn't he realize that the Quest is over?

I think I can imagine the circumstances of background on a lot of these inquiries . . . the fellow has just fired a registered match (Fassett makes a great example), then drives a good part of Sunday evening to get home and works at his job on Monday. On Monday evening, while sitting in a comfortable chair, with his targets on one knee, and a rather substantial glass of Old Overshoe in hand, he continually looks at one target of one hundred yard specie, and one of two hundred yard specie . . . alas, each has one flier to ruin the aggregate and take him out of contention. He probably drove a couple hundred miles to get to the match on Friday evening, after a hard day's work that day, maybe endured two days of rain and a leaking tent, that long ride home Sunday night, and there are those two little stinkers of shots out of the group, which made it all for naught. Sound familiar? If it doesn't, I presume that you have yet to fire in your first match. Please hurry up and do so . . . misery loves company.

What caused those two shots out of the group? Well, if the gun was shooting well enough to deliver 24 out of 25 record shots where they were intended, I very strongly suspect that you got caught on a condition change, sometimes a change so subtle that it took a fellow who knew a specific range backwards and forwards, like the late Bob Hart knew Council Cup, to be able to say something akin to: "Ah, when the leaves turn over the top of the tall maple directly ahead of bench number eight, that signals a breeze almost impossible to detect, about to come from an eight o'clock direction". It is however, given to few of us to know a range in this fashion, and, as a result, we continue to sort of stumble along and hope we guess right 25 specific times at each range. People with nasty habits, such as betting on horses, know how difficult it is to guess right twice (called the daily double) or even three times (called the triple, or trifecta) . . . we are asked to guess right 50 times over a weekend. If you guess right 49 out of 50, one heck of a lot of effort, money, sacrifice and inconvenience has just gone down the chute . . . pull up a chair, and pass the old Overshoe, you are a brother, if only spiritually.

Now if you got caught in a switch that just about everyone else on the range saw clearly, or if you found yourself in the middle of an argument between your trigger finger, which was determined to shoot now for some damndumb reason, and your brain, which kept saying, "not now, stupid, wait a bit; there's plenty of time, and you don't really have a handle on the condition that's prevalent out there now", and you still shot anyway . . . well, that's your fault, and you may feel free to kick yourself in the posterior. You were guilty of shooting while stupid.

But, if you were caught in a subtle little bit of a breeze switch, isn't there something around that could minimize your error? Sure is, fellow, but only in theory . . . a heavier bullet, made to match standards in a larger caliber. You want to be specific? OK . . . how about a 130-135 grain, hollow point, flat base bullet in .30 caliber. Don't tell me about the 168 grain match bullet that currently exists in .30 caliber, it's too heavy (increasing recoil), it's a boat tail, and it was designed for 300 meter free rifle shooting. Shooters who use it at 100 and 200 yards, especially the shorter distance, are merely trying to make the best out of a bad situation, sort of like shooting rabbits with a .30-06 (you can do it, but it isn't the logical way to do things). Do I but dream of something that never

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was? Not really; back in 1962-1963, the late Bruno Boroszewski, one of the pioneers of .30 caliber, was shooting a 147 grain flat base bullet, made in B&A dies . . . L. E. Wilson was shooting a similar type projectile, and George Kelbly — for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot — actually produced a limited number of such bullets on a sort-of-commercial basis. Today our first problem would be getting appropriate jackets, then making the bullets.

But, take the match grade bullet I've just described, and shoot it in the 30 x 47 chamber. Silence falls over the little gathering and someone asks, "And what the heck is that?". Ah, drag out the back issues of PS, and turn to January, 1971 in the pile, where a perfectly splendid article about the cartridge was written by a really fine fellow (me). It was developed by the Remington crew, in 1970, and, to quote the original article, "may quickly be described as a .300 Savage case, at an overall length of 1.871 inch, the object being to create a case for the .30 caliber with approximately ten grains less capacity than the .308". The cartridge is the full length .300 Savage with the shoulder set back .125". Cases are formed by simply grinding .125 off the bottom of a .300 Savage full length die. The .300 was chosen as a parent case, rather than the .308, to avoid a trim operation.

If it's so good, why didn't it succeed before? Simple, we had to use the same 168 grain bullet as the .308 shooters, and we found that we had to move it at 2600 f.p.s. to have accuracy, which was pretty much a carbon copy of the muzzle velocity of the classic .308 accuracy loads. Because we were moving the same bullet at the same velocity, we had no recoil reduction, all we accomplished really was to increase the loading efficiency of the cartridge.

But, take that case, with a proper .30 caliber bullet, designed for bench rest shooting, and you will have something to shoot with the 6mm in ideal conditions, and when those little breezes start picking up at Fassett, or any other range . . . you are in a much better situation than a shooter of equal ability, with a .22 or .24 caliber. The cartridge and bullet combination just proposed would give you a multitude of advantages in a fourteen inch twist match barrel . . . heavier bullet, reduced recoil (when compared to the .308), excellent loading efficiency, flat base bullet, et al.

The cartridge case, as shown, has an easy solution, if we dust off a few 30 x 47 reamers. But we have to get the bullet, and that will be the hard part.

300 METER BENCH REST RECORDS (Continued)

To complete the picture, NBRSA continued to shoot 300 meter course of fire for several more years. In 1975 all 300 meter competition was discontinued.

HEAVY BENCH RIFLE

Date	Record Holder	Range	5-300M	10-300M	5-5-300M	5-10-300M
1970	Herb Stark	Easton				.4248

HEAVY VARMINT

1971	Jess Corder	Easton	.769"		.4492	
1972	Stan Buchtel	Easton	.553"			
1973	Jeff Corder	Easton			.4330	
1974	Tom Seitz	Seattle			.4093	

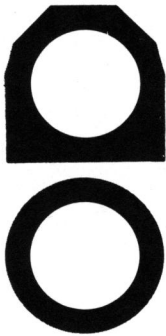
LIGHT VARMINT

1972	Ed Owen	Easton	.757"			
1974	Ken Glanzer	Seattle			.5021	

SPORTER

1973	Pete Rechnitzer	Easton			.4798	
1973	Ralph Matson	—	.710"			

And so ended NBRSA 300 meter shooting. Thereafter, anyone wishing to beat an existing record had to do it at 300 yards against the converted 300 meter mark. As of January, 1975 only Gottschall's .605" HB and Buchtel's .553" HV records survived. These were converted to .553" and .505" respectively, ie. to yards. As of January 1, 1980 only Gottschall's .605" HB (.553") record still stands.



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